

So far as we are aware, no accepted definition of "osteopathy" is as yet a matter of record. According to the statute, it appears to be a method of treating the sick without the use of drugs or instruments, and, up to the present time, those following that cult have vociferously claimed that they practiced osteopathy and not medicine or surgery. But quite recently a change seems to have taken place. Elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL will be found some petitions relative to an application from certain osteopaths to be admitted to the Los Angeles County Hospital. This opens up a very broad question. Is osteopathy merely a form of practicing medicine? Is it merely a particular sect or school of medical practice? If so, why should there be any distinction made between that sect and any other? The spirit of all medical legislation of the present day is to put all applicants for a police license to practice medicine, no matter how they wish to practice it, on the same footing and require of them the same preliminary education and medical training, in order that the people may be, in some measure, protected from ignorance. For, after all, medical licensing acts are intended to be for the protection of the people and not to establish a limited and specialized class. This question is one that should be settled by the osteopaths themselves, and if they are acting in good faith they will promptly and properly settle it. There can be no tenable argument in support of the proposition that some practitioners of medicine, of whatever cult, should be more ignorant or better educated than similar practitioners of any other medical cult. There is only one rational medicine, no matter what manner of treatment may be selected by the individual. We believe that the foremost followers of osteopathy will agree with these fundamental propositions and that the weight of their influence will be directed toward a solution of these problems in a satisfactory manner.

#### PROFESSOR EHRLICH'S NEW REMEDY FOR SYPHILIS.

Within a brief period astounding progress has been achieved in the knowledge of syphilis: the discovery of the *spirocheta pallida* as the etiological agent was soon followed by the Wasserman test as a means of diagnosis, and now a great therapeutic triumph has been announced from Germany. For some months past the newspaper press of Germany and Austria has been exciting the mind of the public with accounts of a remedy for syphilis in a manner which recalled the days of Koch's first experiments with tuberculin. Patients have been repairing to Frankfurt in the expectation of departing cured after a few hours of treatment. And indeed the accounts of Professor Ehrlich's discovery of a new specific for syphilis, which have of late been published in the medical journals of Germany, can hardly fail to arouse enthusiasm in the reader.

For some years past Ehrlich has been assiduously devoting himself to a systematic search for chemical substances which would cure infectious diseases. His goal has been the achievement of what he calls "sterilisatio magna," that is the destruction of all the parasites infesting a body, and that by the ad-

ministration of a single dose. He had experimented with hundreds of substances on animals infected with trypanosomes or spirillæ before he announced that his labors had culminated in the discovery that the injection of a single dose of Dioxy-diamido-arsenobenzol, prepared by Hata, and frequently mentioned in the current medical literature as "preparation 606," would free large primary lesions of the rabbit, which swarmed with spirochetes, from the parasites within twenty-four hours and effect a rapid healing of the lesions. The spirillosis of chickens can also be completely and permanently cured by a single injection.

Skepticism regarding the application of these discoveries to the treatment of human syphilis is disarmed by the testimony of a considerable number of clinical observers concerning the efficacy of "preparation 606" in several hundreds of cases. The spirochetes disappear from the chancre in twenty-four hours after an injection, and an effect has been noted upon them as early as six hours after. Syphilids of various kinds yield promptly to the treatment, even such as have been refractory to mercury and iodid of potash. Severe brain-syphilis has been rapidly improved. The lesions of an infant, five weeks old, with congenital syphilis, were cured in eight days. And all this after a single injection!

Neisser says that he has hitherto succeeded in but few cases in completely eradicating the disease. He suspects that the dose employed was too small. This was probably also the cause of relapses observed by others. In five out of fifty-five cases treated by one clinician, renewed manifestations of the disease occurred in thirteen weeks.

The Wasserman reaction was distinctly affected by the drug in many instances.

In the reports which we have seen, no observations are recorded of the effect of a repetition of the injections. Nor have we seen details of the results obtained in metasymphilitic diseases; there have been meager statements of a beneficial influence upon patients with early tabes and with parietic dementia, but they have not sufficed to overcome the pessimism with which these formidable sequels of syphilis have hitherto been regarded.

We understand that dioxy-diamido-arsenobenzol is a powder and that it is very difficult to prepare a practicable sterile solution. The solutions are strongly alkaline and their injection into the buttocks is followed by pain which renders the patient unable to walk or even stand for as long as a week. The intravenous injection is preferred by some, as it is less painful than the intragluteal, but the slower elimination from the muscle than from the vein is considered by some to be an advantage. A rise of temperature generally follows the injection, but there are no deleterious effects upon the heart or the kidneys, and above all none upon the optic nerves such as compelled the discontinuance of the use of atoxyl and arsacetin. To the fear of such noxious by-effects is, no doubt, attributable the timidity in the initial dosage of the remedy. The efficacious dose in animals is said to be but a small fraction of the lethal dose, and by bolder use on human subjects Ehrlich's ideal of a "sterilisatio magna" of a syphilitic body may yet be realized.